

MORGAN BRICK FARM HOUSE

AL-V-A-048
Old Legislative Road
Between Midlothian and Carlos
ca. 1840

The Morgan Brick Farm House is a substantial building typical of rural brick architecture in Allegany County during the first half of the 19th century. The building is a two story, three bay wide, rectangular structure constructed of brick laid in American Common Bond. Windows are six over six lights and two brick chimneys are located at the flush ends of the house. The farm is located on the Old Legislative Road and is among a significant group of farm houses located in the area, all of which were built in the late 18th or early 19th century.

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Morgan Brick Farm House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Old Legislative Road ___ not for publication

city, town Carlos ~~X~~ vicinity of congressional district Sixth

state Maryland county Allegany

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
___ district	___ public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	___ agriculture ___ museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial ___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
___ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	___ entertainment ___ religious
___ object	___ in process	___ yes: restricted	___ government ___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial ___ transportation
	___ not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	___ military ___ other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name James A. Morgan, Sr.

street & number 126 W. College Avenue telephone no.: 689-5671

city, town Frostburg Maryland state and zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Allegany County Courthouse liber #: 149

street & number 30 Washington Street folio #: 346

city, town Cumberland state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. AL-V-A-048

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

Check one

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Morgan Brick farmhouse is situated on the eastern slope of Big Savage Mountain, facing the Georges Creek Valley to the east. Open fields surround the house.

The farm consists of the two story brick farmhouse and to the south, the ruins of a timber-framed bank barn on a stone foundation.

The three-bay farmhouse faces east. An original one story, one bay by one bay kitchen covers the south end. Either section is covered by a gable roof. As the hill slopes to the east, the stone cellar is fully exposed on this side. A one story, shed-roofed porch shelters the facade of both sections. An interior brick chimney heats either end of the main structure.

A modern, one story frame kitchen covers the rear of the original brick kitchen and the rear of the main block to the first window.

The facade of the entire structure is laid in 3:1 common bond. The remaining masonry exhibits 5:1 common bond. The south end of the kitchen is constructed in frame above the eaves line. Plain flat arches top the door and window openings. The house stands on a random rubble stone foundation with large, well-cut blocks forming quoins at the corners.

On the rear wall, small wooden blocks have been inserted in the mortar at the first and second floor levels, indicating that a porch or other structure may have been built onto this side at one time. All roof surfaces are covered with asphalt shingles.

On the facade, the main section includes a central entrance featuring a six-panel door topped by a three-light transom. A similar entrance opens into the kitchen. At the rear, the two end bays appear to have once accommodated doors. These openings have been bricked at the bottom, and are lit by 9/6 windows in the remaining space.

Nine-over-six sash windows light the first floor, including the south end of the kitchen. Six-over-six sash windows light the second floor, including the south end of the kitchen loft. One six-over-three window lights the north end of the cellar, and a small two-over-two window lights each end of the attic in the main house. Modern storm windows protect the windows on the two main floors.

The exposed east wall of the cellar includes an entrance featuring a batten door to the north and two vents to the south. Each vent is a rectangular opening set horizontally under a single-stone lintel. Seven vertical bars fill the opening.

The present front porch is covered by a shed porch supported by modern iron posts and balustrade. It appears to replace an earlier porch. Stone

8. Significance

Survey No. AL-V-A-048

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Morgan Brick farmhouse was probably built for Peter and Sarah Speelman shortly after they purchased the property from George Swan in 1835. This is one of a number of farmhouses built along the Old Legislative Road in the first half of the 19th century. This house is significant as one of the earliest brick farmhouses in the Georges Creek area. Further research would be required to determine the historical role of the Speelmans in the area.

Architecturally the house remains almost completely intact. The woodwork, although not elaborate, is very well-finished for the area. The building is a typical example for its age and size in central and western Maryland. The floor plan, used throughout the 18th and 19th centuries in the eastern United States, is not common in Maryland's coal region until the mid 19th century and later. Many local farmhouses from the 1st half of the 19th century display vernacular floor plans such as the two-room hall and parlor plan (see Thomas Wright Farm AL-VI-B-030, and Cabin Run Log House AL-VI-B-036) or the three room plan (J. Koontz Farm AL-VI-B-237), although these buildings are not comparable in size to the Morgan Brick House.

The kitchen is unusual for its location spanning the gable end; its brick-work continuous with the main structure; and its method of sharing the chimney of the main section.

The cellar fireplace is a notable feature which appears in other early 19th century farmhouses within a few miles of the Morgan Brick Farmhouse.

The Morgan house is a late example of a building utilizing several notable local features, including the cellar fireplace.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. AL-V-A-048

Allegany County Land Records, Cumberland, Maryland

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

B

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Merry Stinsonorganization Coal Region Historic Sites Survey date 1982street & number 69 Hill Street telephone _____city or town Frostburg state Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

piers support the porch deck.

The interior plan consists of a central stair hall flanked by a parlor to either side. The single-room kitchen features a large fireplace set into the chimney of the main house. A boxed stair with a batten door rises in the southeast corner.

The balustrade of the principal stair has been removed. The west end of the hall has been partitioned off to form a bathroom.

Two fireplaces heat the main section of the house, one in either parlor. Both fireplaces retain their original wooden mantels, which each exhibit a simple mantel shelf and a panelled face and pilasters. The slightly more elaborate north mantel includes reeding. An original built-in cabinet featuring shelves and panelled doors flanks either fireplace. The northern cabinet is situated to the east side of the fireplace while the southern one appears to the west of the fireplace.

Six-panel doors and cavetto/astragal moldings appear throughout the house. All original architraves and chair rails are extant. The present occupant reports that the south bedroom on the second floor retains a fireplace with mantel.

The cellar, which can be reached by a staircase under the main stair, is divided into two rooms by a central stone partition wall. A fireplace at the north end has been bricked in. Two brick piers in front of the south chimney base support the hearth above.

A central summer beam running the length of the cellar is imbedded in the chimney block at either end. Joists ride over the summer beam, unbroken in their length from east to west. Their top and bottom surfaces are hewn, with the sides left with the bark on. The cellar walls are whitewashed.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

AL-V-A-048

0102435404

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Morgan Brick Farm House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Old Legislative Road

CITY, TOWN

Carlos

☒ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Sixth

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Allegany

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☒ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

James A. Morgan, Sr.

Telephone #: 689-5671

STREET & NUMBER

126 W. College Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Frostburg

☒ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Allegany County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

30 Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Cumberland,

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

AZ-V-A-048

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Morgan Brick Farm House is located off the west side of the Old Legislative Road between Midlothian and Carlos in Allegany County.

The Morgan Farm House is a two story, three bay wide, rectangular brick structure constructed of brick laid in American Common Bond. A small one and a half story addition abuts the main block on the south side. A second more modern addition is located at the rear of the building. Both the main house and the two additions have gable roofs, covered with replaced asphalt shingles. The main block is supported by a low stone foundation. Windows in the structure are double hung, pegged, wooden sash frames with six over six lights. Flat structural arches are located over the windows. Two entrances are located on the main facade and feature paneled doors with transom lights. Both entrances are covered by a four bay shed roof end porch. Two original brick chimneys are located at the flush ends of the house.

Located near by the main house is the foundation of a log barn. What remains is constructed of stone laid in random ashlar and coarsed rubble pattern. The remaining logs are hewn and mortised and tenoned together.

The Morgan Farm House is in good condition and as such is a good example of early 19th century rural brick architecture.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

AR-V-A-048

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Morgan Farm House is a substantial building typical of rural brick architecture in Allegany County during the first half of the 19th century. In all probability the house was built for Peter and Sarah Speelman in the early 1840's. They had purchased the property from George Swan in 1835 for \$500.00.¹

Judging from the size of the barn, the Morgan Farm was obviously a prosperous one in its day. In addition, the farm is located on the Old Legislative Road and is among a significant group of farm houses located in the area, all of which were built in the late 18th and early 19th century.

1 Allegany County Land Records, Cumberland, Maryland

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

AL-V-A-048

Allegany County Land Records, Cumberland, Maryland

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 139.61 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

John Nelson, Joan Baldwin & Steve Beale

ORGANIZATION

Allegany County Historic Sites Survey

DATE

12/7/76

STREET & NUMBER

507 National Highway

TELEPHONE

777-8991

CITY OR TOWN

LaVale,

STATE

Maryland

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RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

AL-V-A-048

TITLE SEARCH

Morgan Brick Farm House

Allegany County Deed; Liber 149, Folio 346
grantee: James A. Morgan
grantor: William C. Morgan, et. al.
January 6, 1925

Allegany County Deed; Liber 84, Folio 695
grantee: Henry A. Morgan
grantor: Bordon Mining Company
March 23, 1899
Consideration: \$3,000.00

Allegany County Deed; Liber 64, Folio 52
grantee: Bordon Mining Company
grantor: William Whitewright & Francis Leland
January 1, 1887
Consideration: \$190,000.00

Allegany County Deed; Liber 61, Folio 645
grantee: William Whitewright & Francis Leland
grantor: Cumberland Coal and Iron Company
April 4, 1885

Allegany County Deed; Liber 9, Folio 88
grantee: Cumberland Coal and Iron Company
grantor: Peter and Sarah Speelman
December 1, 1852
Consideration: \$16,924.00
(Lot beginning 3972)

Allegany County Deed; Liber R, Folio 504
grantee: Peter and Sarah Speelman
grantor: George Swan
August 17, 1835
Consideration: \$500.00

INVENTORY NO. A1-V-A-048

149/346

139.61 ACRES

DATE: 11/19

REMODELING: Drastic, moderate, minor

NAME OF PROPERTY: Morgan Brick Farmhouse

LOCATION OF PROPERTY: Old Legislative Rd. Between Midlothian & Carlos

DIRECTION DWELLING FACES: East

NAME OF OWNER: JAMES A. MORGAN, SR.

ADDRESS: 126 W. College Avenue 689-5671

Frostburg, M.D. 21532

STORIES: 1() 2(☒) 3() 4() 5() 6() BAYS: 1() 2() 3(☒) 4() 5() 6() 7() ()

WINGS, ADDITIONS: Shed roof addition on rear

Dwelling Shape: (square, cross, rectangular)

WALL CONSTRUCTION:

- () FRAME: Bevel, clapboard, weatherboard, wood shingles, board & batten (type?)
(☒) BRICK: Bond type- common, English, Flemish. Sketch variants.
() STONE: Bond type- rubble, ashlar (random or regular), quoins-plain, rusticated
() LOG
() Other: Coverings

WALL FEATURES: BELT COURSE, PILASTERS, OTHERS _____

FOUNDATIONS: HIGH, LOW, BRICK, STONE

WATER TABLE: NONE, PLAIN, BEVELED, MOULDED BRICK

WINDOWS, TRIM, SHUTTERS: 1/1() 2/2() 6/6(☒) 9/6() 9/9() other()
pegged (☒) nailed() wide() narrow (☒) mitred() pediment()

ENTRANCE, DOORS: LOCATION: _____

HARDWARE: original(☒) replaced()

FAN LIGHT, TRANSOM, SIDE LIGHTS, PLAIN

Paneled, Verticle, Horizontal Boards

CORNICE, BARGE, EAVES: (crown, fascia, soffit, bed)

original() replaced() Rafter Ends, Modillions, Dentils, Frieze,

Architrave

ROOF: GABLE FRONT, GABLE FLANK, HIP, SHED, BANSARD, GAMBREL, FLAT, DORMERS #

MATERIAL: wood shingles, slate, tin, asphalt original() replaced(☒)

PORCHES: SHAPE OF ROOF - shed(☒) hip() gable()

CHIMNEYS: NUMBER _____ BRICK(☒) STONE() CORNELED() original(☒) replaced()

LOCATION: Flush end(☒) Inside end() Outside end() Central() Interior()

ARCHES: Door and window: Keystone, Flat, Segmental, Semicircular

COMMENTS:

Use - Residence

Significance - Arch

Date Constructed - CA 1840

Condition - Good

Morgan Brick Farmhouse
AL-II-A-048
Old Legislative Rd., between
Midlothian & Carlos
Frostburg, MD. - PA
1:24,000
1949

AI-V-A-050
AI-V-A-051

AI-V-A-049
AI-V-A-043
AI-V-A-040
AI-V-A-045
AI-V-A-052
AI-V-A-046
AI-V-A-048
AI-V-A-042
AI-V-A-047
AI-V-A-044
AI-V-A-041

AI-V-A-001

AI-V-A-011

AI-V-A-03
AI-V-A-033

SECTION VII

FROSTBURG
(Separate Map)

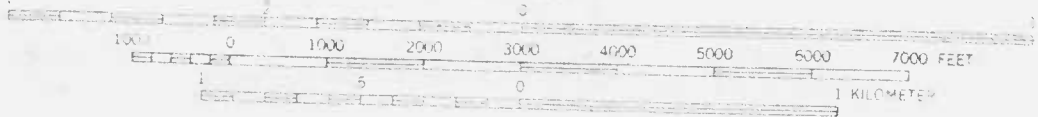
AI-V-A-039

AI-V-A-024

AI-V-A-01

HISTORIC SITES DISTRIBUTION

SCALE 1:24,000



● = SIT



A1-V-A-048

Morgan Brick Farmhouse
Off Old Legislative Rd.

Between Midlothian + Carlos
John Nelson

11/19/76

Northwest



A1-V-A-048

Morgan Brick Farmhouse

Off Old Legislative Rd.

Between Midlothian + Carlos

John Nelson

11/19/76

Northeast



Al-V-A-048

Morgan Brick Farmhouse/

Barn Foundation

Off Old Legislative Rd.

Between Midlothian +

Carroll

John Nelson

11/19/76

Northwest



AL-V-A-048

Morgan Brick Farmhouse

Allegany Co.

M. Stinson 8/82

S & E elevs.



AL-V-A-048

Morgan Brick Farmhouse

Allegany Co.

M. Stinson 8/82

N & W elevs.



AL-VI-A-048

MORGAN BRICK FARMHOUSE



AL-V-A-048

MORGAN BRICK FARMHOUSE

8/82- Merv Stinson